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INDEPENDENT CIA ACTIONS ARE DENIED

Close Vietnam Control By Washington Cited By Kennedy

Americans found dead in
helicopter in Vietnam... Page 5

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Washington, Oct. 9—The Central Intelligence Agency has not operated independently in South Vietnam but has supported Government policy under close control from Washington, President Kennedy said today.

The President called recent reports of independent CIA activities "wholly untrue."

"I can find nothing," he said at his news conference, "and I have looked through the record very carefully over the last nine months, and I could go further, to indicate that the CIA has done anything but support policy. It does not create policy; it attempts to execute it in those areas where it has competence and responsibility."

"Led To Surmises"

President Kennedy said he knew the recent transfer of John Richardson, the CIA head in Saigon, "has led to surmises, but I can assure you flatly that the CIA has not carried out independent activities but has operated under close control of the director of central intelligence, operating with the cooperation of the National Security Council and under my instructions."

He also said there had been no changes in the personnel and policies of the South Vietnam Government, as he had urged last month.

"I think we are still dealing with the same problems we were dealing with a month ago," he said.

To Meet With Gromyko

The President said his proposed joint Soviet-American moon project "may come up" when he meets tomorrow with Andrei A. Gromyko, Soviet Foreign Minister. "But," he added, "I must say we have had no reason to believe that they are going to take us up on it."

He said of his meeting with Gromyko, "Mr. Khrushchev has said that there is no coexistence in the field of ideology. There are bound to be very severe matters on which the Soviet Union and the United States have very different views."

"As we don't want these disputes and frictions to escalate into military clashes, it is worth-while to have consultations," he added.

President Kennedy said the events since he last met Gromyko a year ago "will lessen the prospect of a military clash."

Space Mentioned

He said there was no agreement as such between the United States and the U.S.S.R. to keep nuclear weapons out of space, but that he was "glad" that the Russians had said they would not use space for that purpose.

"The United States has stated it would not put weapons in outer space," he said. "We have no military use for doing so, and we would not do so. The Soviet Union has stated that it does not intend to. We are glad of that."

"There is no way we can verify that, but we are glad to hear the intention. We must recognize that there is no secure method of determining that some day they may not decide to do so. So we obviously have to take our own precautions."

He defended an article by Edwin M. Martin, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, on Latin-American coups, saying, "Mr. Martin was merely attempting to explain some of the problems in Latin America, why coups take place, and what problems they present us with."

No Change In Policy

He insisted the article indicated no change in policy toward military dictatorships, which he called "the seedbeds from which communism ultimately springs up."

"We are using our influence," he said, "and I am sure the other countries of the hemisphere are using their influence in those areas where coups have taken place to provide for an orderly restoration of constitutional processes."

The President also said this country had done all it could to forestall the coups. He said it was a "serious mistake" to believe that the Marines should have been sent to South Vietnam for democracy to flourish.

Repeated questions brought the President back to South Vietnam

"Particularly True"
"As of today," he said, "and I think this is particularly true, since General Taylor and Secretary McNamara came back, I know of no disagreement between the State Department at the top, CIA at the top, defense at the top, the White House and Ambassador Lodge, on what our basic policies will be and what steps we will take to implement it."

"I would think that Saigon, and personnel in the various agencies, should support that policy, because that is the policy we are going to carry out for a while."

The President said he is "well-satisfied with the present arrangement" of supervision of CIA.

Asked About Proposal

Asked if he favored Senator Gruening's (D., Alaska) proposal to set up a congressional watchdog agency of the agency, he said:

"I think the present committees—there's one in both the House and the Senate which maintain very close liaison with the CIA—is best, considering the sensitive nature of the Central Intelligence Agency's work."

He said he saw John A. McCone, director of Central Intelligence "at least three or four times a week, ordinarily. We have worked very closely together in the last two months attempting to meet the problems

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